

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Installation for updating an address database with recorded address records, comprising:

- at least one processor (14, 15, 42) for receiving and processing address data as shown on items of post;
- a memory (22), connected to the at least one processor (14, 15, 42), for storing the address data;
- a database memory (44), connected to the at least one processor (14, 15, 42), containing the address database stored therein;

characterised in that

the at least one processor (14, 15, 42) is equipped to determine a quality rating for the address data on the basis of predefined criteria, the quality rating indicating how good the address data are, to compare the address data with the address records stored in the database memory (44) and to update the content of the database memory (44) on the basis of the quality rating and the comparison of the address data with the stored address records.

2. (original) Installation according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to determine a

reliability rating for recognition of the address data and partly to base the quality rating on the reliability rating for recognition.

3. (previously presented) Installation according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to select name lines from the address data, to split the name lines into individual elements in accordance with predefined rules and partly to base the quality rating on the selection of name lines and the splitting thereof.

4. (original) Installation according to Claim 3, further comprising stored common names, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to compare the individual elements of the name lines with the common names, to establish a commonness rating on the basis thereof and partly to base the quality rating on the commonness rating.

5. (currently amended) ~~In-stallation~~ Installation according to Claim 3, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to derive a name for an addressee from the name lines, to derive an address for the addressee from the address data, to read registered names of persons residing at that ~~address~~from address from the address database and to compare these with the name of the addressee and, on the basis of that comparison, to determine a comparison score per registered name, a comparison score having a higher value the greater the degree of correspondence between the name of the addressee and a respective registered name.

6. (original) Installation according to Claim 5, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to determine that the address data are new if the comparison scores are relatively low and the quality rating is relatively high.

7. (previously presented) Installation according to Claim 5, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to determine that the address data are known if the comparison scores are relatively high and the quality rating is relatively high.

8. (previously presented) Installation according to Claim 5, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to determine that the address data are unknown if the comparison scores are relatively low and the quality rating is relatively low.

9. (previously presented) Installation according to claim 6, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to generate an additional address record, containing the address data, in the address database if the address data are new.

10. (original) Installation according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one processor is equipped to record one of the following four statuses per address record:

- status new, if the address record is generated;
- status common, if the associated address data are received from different senders;
- status reliable, if the associated address data are regularly read afresh;

- status old, if the address record lapses.

11. (currently amended) Installation according to claim 1, wherein the address database is stored with security, such that either the data stored in the central database can be processed only via predefined rules or some of the data stored in the central database can be ~~accesse~~d accessed via a ~~predefined~~secure output routine.

12. (previously presented) Installation according to claim 1, further comprising post sorting units (26, 28) for automatic sorting of the items of post (1) making use of the address database.

13. (currently amended) Method for updating an address database in a database memory (44) containing recorded address records, comprising:

- receiving and processing address dadta as shown on items of post;

- storing the address data;

characterised by

the determination of a quality rating for the address data on the basis of predefined criteria, the quality rating indicating how good the address data are, comparison of the address data with the address records stored in the database memory (44) and updating the content of the database memory (44) on the basis of the quality rating and the comparison of the address data with the stored address records.

14. (original) Method according to Claim 13, comprising the step for determining a reliability rating for recognition of the address data and partly basing the quality rating on the reliability rating for recognition.

15. (currently amended) Method according to ~~Claim~~ Claim 13, comprising the steps for selecting name lines from the address data, splitting the name lines into individual elements in accordance with predefined rules and partly basing the quality rating on the selection of name lines and the splitting thereof.

16. (original) Method according to Claim 15, comprising the steps for comparing the individual elements of the name lines with common names, establishing a commonness rating on the basis thereof and partly basing the quality rating on the commonness rating.

17. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 15, comprising the steps for deriving a name for an addressee from the name lines, for deriving an address for the addressee from the address data, reading registered names of persons residing at that address from the address database and comparing these with the name of the addressee and, on the basis of that comparison, determining a comparison score per registered name, a comparison score having a higher value the greater the degree of correspondence ~~betwee—n~~ between the name of the addressee and a respective registered name.

18. (original) Method according to Claim 17, comprising the step for determining the address data are new if the comparison scores are relatively low and the quality rating is relatively high.

19. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 17, comprising the step for determining that the address data are known if the comparison scores are relatively high and the quality rating is relatively high.

20. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 17, comprising the step for determining that the address data are unknown if the comparison scores are relatively low and the quality rating is relatively low.

21. (currently amended) Method according to [[Clai]] Claim 18, comprising the step for generating an additional address record, containing the address data, in the address database if the address data are new.

22. (original) Method according to Claim 21, comprising the step for recording one of the following four statuses per address record:

- status new, if the address record is generated;
- status common, if the associated address data are received from different senders;
- status reliable, if the associated address data are regularly read afresh;
- status old, if the address record lapses.

23. (currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein the address database is stored with security, ~~such~~ such that either the data stored in the central database can be processed only via predefined rules or some of the data stored in the central database can be accessed via a ~~predefined~~ secure output routine.

24. (currently amended) Method according to claim 13, ~~comprising~~ comprising the step for sorting items of post (1) making use of the address database.

25. (original) Data carrier provided with a computer program that can be read by a computer installation and, after having been loaded, provides the computer installation with the functionality for updating an address database in a database memory (44) containing recorded address records, making use of the following steps:

- receiving and processing address data as shown on items of post;

- storing the address data;

characterised by

the determination of a quality rating for the address data on the basis of predefined criteria, comparison of the address data with the address records stored in the database memory (44) and updating the content of the database memory (44) on the basis of the quality rating and the comparison of the address data with the stored address records.

26. (original) Computer program that can be read by a computer installation and, after having been loaded, provides the computer installation with the functionality for updating an address database in a database memory (44) containing recorded address records, making use of the following steps:

- receiving and processing address data as shown on items of post;

- storing the address data;

characterised by

the determination of a quality rating for the address data on the basis of predefined criteria, comparison of the address data with the address records stored in the database memory (44) and updating the content of the database memory (44) on the basis of the quality rating and the comparison of the address data with the stored address records.